

# Quick Tips for **Green Gardening** and **Healthy Water Quality**

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## **DO**

- Fertilize according to what the plants actually require. Time fertilizer applications accordingly.
- Keep soil healthy. Compost provides organic nutrients.
- Choose native plants local to your area (climate and soil adapted, disease-resistant)
- Minimize turf areas in your landscape whenever possible and replace with native plant beds and/or native grasses.
- Control weeds by hand pulling, hoeing or mulching.
- Use alternatives to chemical products, or the least toxic option, whenever possible.
- Be cautious. If you use fertilizers or pesticides, read labels carefully and follow directions...remember if you don't bag grass clippings you can reduce or eliminate fertilizer application!
- Buy only the amount of chemical products you can use.
- Install anti-siphon devices on outside faucets with hoses.
- Cut grass higher in the summer to help establish a deeper root system.

## **DON'T**

- Overwater. Excess water can wash pesticides and fertilizers into our ground water.
- Overfertilize. Have your soil tested; results will tell you if you need to apply fertilizer.
- Apply pesticides or fertilizers when it is windy or raining. NEVER fertilize before a rain.
- Leave bare soil exposed. Replant or mulch to prevent sediment runoff into our streams.



Modified from, "Earth-wise guide to Green Gardening Quick Tips" by [www.growgreen.org](http://www.growgreen.org)

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